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Answer

a management means for managing information on nodes in the vicinity of any node on the network for any such node and for searching for a destination of reference by successively propagating said reference request to nodes which may substantially connect with the node of the designation of reference of said reference request.

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33. (Amended) A data distribution method as set forth in claim 32, wherein:

said information substantially existing in said other data package generates a reference request by which said data utilization means refers to the entity of said data and

a network management means provided for any node of the network for managing information on nodes in the vicinity of any such node successively propagates said reference request to nodes which may substantially connect with the node of the designation of reference of said reference request.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 9, 2001 has been received and carefully noted. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 16 and 33 were amended as to formal matters. No new matter has been added or amendments made which narrow the scope of any elements of any claims. Claims 1-51 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.